

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5. (currently amended) Footwear as recited in claim 14, wherein the convex arch portion and concave right and left support legs ~~of the metatarsal guard~~ are solid ~~members~~.

Claim 6. (currently amended) Footwear as recited in claim 5, wherein the concave right and left support legs ~~of said metatarsal guard~~ are of have a width less than the width than of the convex arch portion.

Claim 7. (currently amended) Footwear as recited in claim 14, wherein the lip ~~of said metatarsal guard~~ is cemented to the toe cap.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended) Footwear as recited in claim 14, wherein the one piece molded metatarsal guard is a solid ~~member~~.

Claim 10. (currently amended) Footwear as recited in claim 14, wherein the convex arch portion is a solid ~~member~~.

Claim 11. (currently amended) Footwear as recited in claim 10, wherein the right and left support legs ~~of said metatarsal guard~~ are of have a width less than the width than of the convex arch portion.

Claim 12. (currently amended) Footwear as recited in claim 12, wherein the lip ~~portion~~ is a solid ~~member~~.

Claim 13. (canceled)

Claim 14. (new) Footwear comprising a sole, a toe cap, and an upper having a unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard therein for transmitting a load to the sole, said metatarsal guard comprising:

a convex arch portion over a wearer's instep, the convex arch portion defining right and left sides;

a concave integrally molded right support leg extending downwardly from the right side of the arch portion on the right side of a wearer's foot and in contact with the sole; and

a concave integrally molded left support leg extending downwardly from the left side of the arch portion on the left side of a wearer's foot and in contact with the sole;

the convex arch portion between the right and left support legs comprising a single layer including an integrally molded lip overlying the toe cap and an integrally molded section rearward of the right and left support legs;

the support legs bearing against the sole and the lip and rearward sections of the convex arch portion not bearing against the sole when a load is applied to the metatarsal guard.

Claim 15. (new) Footwear as recited in claim 14, wherein each of the supports legs extends substantially perpendicularly from a longitudinal axis of the convex arch portion.

Claim 16. (new) Footwear as recited in claim 14, wherein a support leg extending from a side of the convex arch portion defines an L-shaped notch.

Claim 17. (new) Footwear comprising a sole, a toe cap, and an upper having a unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard therein for transmitting a load to the sole, said metatarsal guard comprising:

a convex arch portion over the wearer's instep, the convex arch portion defining right and left sides, an integrally molded lip overlying the toe cap, and an integrally molded section rearward of right and left support legs;

a concave integrally molded right support leg extending downwardly from the right side of the arch portion on the right side of a wearer's foot and in contact with the sole; and

a concave integrally molded left support leg extending downwardly from the left side of the arch portion on the left side of a wearer's foot and in contact with the sole;

each of the legs having a width less than the width of the convex arch portion between the right and left support legs, the support legs bearing against the sole and the lip and rearward section of the convex arch portion not bearing against the sole when a load is applied to the metatarsal guard.

Claim 18. (new) Footwear comprising a sole, a toe cap, and an upper having a unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard therein for transmitting a load to the sole, said metatarsal guard comprising:

a convex arch portion over the wearer's instep having an integrally molded lip overlying the toe cap and a section rearward of the right and left support legs;

a single concave right support leg and a single concave left support leg extending on opposite sides of a user's foot, each leg being integrally molded with the convex arch portion and in contact with the sole; and

a single concave integrally molded left support leg extending downwardly from the left side of the arch portion on the left side of a wearer's foot and in contact with the sole;

each of the legs having a width less than the width of the lip, the support legs bearing against the sole and the lip and rearward section of the convex arch portion not bearing against the sole when a load is applied to the metatarsal guard.

Claim 19. (new) Footwear as recited in claim 18, wherein the lip is solid.

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